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ANOTHER CASE OF AIR PIRACY

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE LATEST CASE OF INTERNATIONAL AIR PIRACY:

VOICE: HIJACKING COMMERICAL AIRLINERS HAS BECOME THE ACCEPTED TECHNIQUE BY WHICH POLITICAL DISSIDENTS DRAW ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSES. IT WAS JUST SIX YEARS AGO---IN SEPTEMBER, NINETEEN SEVENTY---THAT THE PALESTINIAN ARABS SEIZED THREE PLANES IN A SINGLE DAY. THAT ACTION UNQUESTIONABLY SERVED TO CATAPULT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE ONTO THE FRONT PAGE OF WORLD NEWS, AND THE CROAT TERRORISTS HAVE HAD SIMILAR SUCCESS. THE CROATIAN GROUP, HOWEVER, INSURED ITSELF PUBLICITY NOT ONLY BY SEIZING A TRANS-WORLD AIRLINER LAST FRIDAY BUT ALSO BY REQUIRING SEVERAL PROMINENT AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS TO PRINT A SUMMARY OF THEIR AIMS AND ARGUMENTS.

AS ALWAYS IN SUCH CASES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE JUST HOW TO DEAL STRICTLY WITH THE HIJACKERS WITHOUT GAMBLING UNNECESSARILY WITH THE LIVES OF THE HOSTAGES. OBVIOUSLY WITH THE PASSENGERS' SAFETY IN MIND, THE NEWSPAPERS AGREED TO PRINT THE HIJACKERS' STATEMENTS. FOR THE SAME REASON, THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, KENNETH RUSH, TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS AT THE PARIS AIRPORT --- ALTHOUGH IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN WASHINGTON THAT THIS DID NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES POLICY OF "NO NEGOTIATION" WITH HIJACKERS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AS MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES ARE DOING, FOLLOWED A TOUGH POLICY IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE HIJACKERS, REFUSING TO ALLOW THE PLANE TO LEAVE PARIS AND DEMANDING THE SURRENDER OF THE HIJACKERS. SUCH A POLICY ALWAYS INCLUDES AN ELEMENT OF RISK TO THE HOSTAGES, BUT IN THIS CASE IT WAS

SUCCESSFUL AND THE HIJACKERS SURRENDERSD.

AN EDITORIAL BY THE YUGOSLAV NEWS SERVICE SUNDAY CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES FOR WHAT IT CALLED "TOLERATION OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORIST ACTIVITIES"--- AND FOR PERMITTING PUBLICATION OF THE CROAT NATIONALISTS' STATEMENTS. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MANY DISSIDENT POLITICAL GROUPS OF ALL KINDS IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ARE NOT PERMITTED, AND THE HIJACKERS WILL UNQUESTIONABLY BE CHARGED UNDER AMERICAN LAWS AGAINST AIR PIRACY, CONSPIRACY AND POSSIBLY MURDER. AS FOR THE DECISION OF THE NEWSPAPERS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE TERRORISTS, THIS IS SOMETHING OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO CONTROL.

THERE IS ONE EFFECT WHICH THIS LATEST HIJACKING WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE. IT WILL STRENGTHEN THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF STRONGER INTERNATIONAL MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM OF THIS TYPE. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND, THE NINE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES WENT ON RECORD AS FAVORING AN ANTI-TERRORISM CONVENTION WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS LATER THIS YEAR. SIMILAR PROPOSALS HAVE FOUNDERED IN THE PAST, BUT THE NEWEST HIJACKING INCIDENT IS BOUND TO STRENGTHEN THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO MAINTAIN THAT SOONER OR LATER SUCH A MEASURE MUST BE ADOPTED.

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